

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1987

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR NIACT IMMEDIATE

SECDEF NIACT IMMEDIATE

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JIDDA FOR ATHERTON

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, IS, SY

SUBJECT: NOVEMBER 16 MEDIA ON IDF READINESS, ETC.

REF: DAMASCUS 2707

1. ONLY ONE OF TWO SYRIAN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED DAILIES
CARRIED REPORTS NOVEMBER 16 OF ISRAELI MILITARY ACTIVITIES.
AL-THAWRA UNDER CAPTION OF "FEVER OF AGRESSION ON SYRIA
DOMINATES ENEMY'S STATEMENTS AND MOVES." SAID ENEMY HAS
ESCALATED HIS CAMPAIGN OF THREATS AGAINST SYRIA. IT

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MENTIONED ISRAELI MILITARY MOVES IN DIRECTION OF GOLAN AT
SAME TIME "DUBIOUS STATEMENTS" MADE IN ISRAEL AND WASHINGTON

ON "CONCOCTED INTENTIONS FOR NEW AGGRESSION." REMAINDER OF ARTICLE TAKEN FROM AFP. IT REPORTED THAT LEBANESE VILLAGES SAW ISRAELI TANKS MOVING TOWARD GOLAN. AFP ITEM CONNECTED THESE MOVEMENTS WITH RABIN'S STATEMENTS THAT SYRIA HAD BEEN RECEIVING LARGE QUANTITIES OF ARMS AND THAT THERE POSSIBILITY SYRIA WOULD REFUSE RENEW UN MANDATE.

2. AFP, AS PRINTED IN ARTICLE, ALSO REPORTED FROM WASHINGTON STATEMENTS BY SECRETARY TO EFFECT THAT WAR IN ME IS "NOT SOON OR DEFINITE" BUT THAT SHOULD WAR BREAK OUT, US WOULD WORK TOWARD ENDING IT RAPIDLY. KISSINGER REPORTEDLY SAID US WILL NOT INTERFERE MILITARILY IN ME UNLESS ANOTHER FOREIGN POWER INTERFERES IN AREA. HE ALSO QUOTED AS EXPRESSING REGRET SYRIA IS NOT PREPARED TO EXTEND TERM OF UNDOF AND ADDED THAT THIS WOULD THREATEN SITUATION IN AREA BY QUESTIONING STABILITY OF AGREEMENTS.

3. DAMASCUS RADIO, WHICH IS MOST IMPORTANT MEDIUM FOR SYRIAN GOVERNMENT TO CONVEY VIEWS, HAS NOT MADE ANY REFERENCE TO ISRAELI MILITARY MOVES, CURRENT THREATS TO PEACE OR POSSIBLE OUTBREAK OF WAR. SOLE REFERENCE TO ENTIRE SUBJECT WAS ONE SENTENCE ITEM AT CLOSE OF EARLY MORNING NEWS THAT CITED SECRETARY AS SAYING IN WASHINGTON THAT "US OPPOSES ANY MILITARY INTERFERENCE IN AREA."

4. WHILE PUBLIC NOT INFORMED THROUGH RADIO DAMASCUS OF CURRENT TENSION IN AREA, ALL LISTEN TO RADIO ISRAEL AND ARE AWARE OF GOI'S CURRENT ACCUSATIONS ABOUT SARG INTENTIONS. THERE VIRTUALLY NO SERIOUS CONCERN AMONG OUR SYRIAN FRIENDS THAT CURRENT TALK WILL LEAD TO FIGHTING. MOST OF THEM BRUSH IT OFF WITH COMMENT THAT CURRENT ISREALI TALK IS BUT "VERBAL" WAR OF AGGRESSION. IN DAMASCUS, DAY'S FESTIVITIES TO CELEBRATE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF ASAD-LED CORRECTIVE MOVEMENT CONTINUE WITH PARADES IN SEVERAL PARTS OF TOWN THIS PM AND RALLY SCHEDULED FOR UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM TONIGHT. MURPHY

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